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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

OFFICIAL

Applicant(s): James B. Gibson

Application No.: 10/034,153

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Title: MEDICATION ORGANIZING
SYSTEM

Attorney Docket No.: GIBSON 1

Group Art Unit: 3721

Examiner: Louis K. Huynh

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Twice Amended) A medication organizing system for manually preparing sealed packages of medication for their daily dosages comprising:
 - a plurality of hoppers in a linear arrangement;
 - a plurality of nozzles, each of said nozzels associated with a corresponding one of said hoppers;
 - a passageway between each of said hoppers and the associated nozzle;
 - a manually operated hopper door for simultaneously opening said passageways between each of said hoppers and the associated nozzle;
 - a multi-compartmented container, said multi-compartmented container comprising a plurality of ~~packages~~ bags in a linear arrangement, said ~~packages~~ bags being of a size and alignment to allow each of said ~~packages~~ to be placed

~~with bags to conform to and envelope~~ one of said nozzles such that each of said ~~packages bags~~ can simultaneously receive a plurality of various sized pills ~~at least one pill~~ from ~~one of said hoppers; and the associated hopper, and~~ a heat sealing arrangement for simultaneously sealing each of said ~~packages bags~~.

2. (Previously Withdrawn) A multi-compartmented container, said container consisting of:

seven packages arranged side by side in a linear arrangement;

said packages being of a size and alignment to allow said container to be lifted onto and envelope seven nozzles;

said packages marked on their front surface with the days of the week;

said front surface of said packages capable of accepting ink from a pen or marker;

said packages including a space on said front surface for the date to be written;

said front surface of said packages including check blocks for marking the medication period of the day;

said packages providing a sealing area for sealing;

said packages having a transparent rear wall which allows viewing of any medications within said packages; and

said container having tear areas between said packages to permit their separation from the remainder of said container.

3. (Previously Withdrawn) The multi-compartmented container of claim 2 wherein the front wall of said packages preferably include an inner layer of clear Surlyn™ and an outer layer of aluminum foil and said rear wall includes a single layer of Surlyne™.

4. (Previously Withdrawn) The multi-compartmented container of claim 2, wherein the bottom of said packages include a gusset.

5. (Original) The medication organizing system of claim 1 wherein said packages are preferably 1.625 inches wide and 2.75 inches deep.

6. (Original) The medication organizing system of claim 1 wherein said sealing arrangement is a heat sealing unit comprising:

- a metal strip capable of being electrically heated;
- a hinged cover;
- a heat sensor disposed within said cover; and
- a light or LED connected to said sensor, said light or LED changing state when said sensor detects that the packages have achieved an optimal sealing

temperature.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Withdrawn) The multi-compartmented container of claim 2 wherein the front wall of said packages has a U-shaped area removed to enable easier opening of said packages.

9. (Original) The medication organizing system of claim 1 wherein said nozzles have an angled surface at the discharge end.

10. (Previously Withdrawn) The multi-compartmented container of claim 2 wherein said packages include tear notches below said sealing area to enable easy opening of said packages.

11. (Previously Withdrawn) A method of organizing medications including the steps of:

providing a medication sorting and dispensing unit having a plurality of hoppers, a vertical nozzle extending from each of said hoppers, an internal passageway between each of said hoppers and said nozzles, a plurality of

hopper doors for simultaneously closing or opening said passageways between said hoppers and said nozzles, and a shelf disposed under said nozzles;

providing a multi-compartmented packaging container, said container consisting of a plurality of bags arranged side by side in a linear arrangement, said bag of a size and alignment to allow said container to be lifted onto said nozzles such that each of said bags conforms to and envelops one of said nozzles and said container rest on said shelf, said bags marked on their front surface with the days of the week, said front surface of said bags capable of accepting ink from a pen or marker, said bags including a space on said front surface for the date to be written, said front surface of said bags including check blocks for marking the medication period of the day;

providing an electrical supply;

providing a sealing arrangement for sealing said packaging container, said sealing arrangement including a metal strip capable of being resistively heated by said electrical supply, a hinged cover, a heat sensor disposed within said cover, and a light or LED connected to said sensor, said light or LED changing state when said sensor sense the proper sealing temperature for said packaging container;

activating said electrical supply;

lifting said container onto said nozzles, each of said bags marked with the days of the week therefore associated with one of said hoppers;

closing said doors;

placing one or more tabular or capsular medications in each hopper, said medications corresponding to the preferred dosage for said associated day and a given time of day;

opening said doors simultaneously thereby allowing said medications to fall into said bags;

removing said container from said nozzles;

opening the cover of said sealing arrangement;

placing said container into said sealing arrangement such that said metal strip is positioned near the open end of said bags;

pressing said hinged cover upon said container thereby sealing said open ends of said bags;

marking one of said check blocks thereby identifying the medication period of the day.